

00862.023126



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
:)
HIROAKI IKEDA)
:)
Application No.: 10/615,304)
:)
Filed: July 9, 2003)
:)
For: CHARACTER RECOGNITION)
APPARATUS AND METHOD : September 30, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

- (1) Japan 5-101220
- (2) Japan 6-301822
- (3) Japan 9-167206

Reference (1) is discussed in the specification at page 2, line 26, to page 3, line 17, and at page 4, lines 11 to 20, reference (3) is discussed in the specification at page 3, line 21, to page 4, line 1, and at page 4, lines 21 to 27, and reference (2) is discussed in the specification at page 4, lines 5 to 9, and page 5, lines 1 to 3. These references might be deemed pertinent for the reasons given therein.

An English-language abstract for each of the above-listed Japanese documents has been located and is enclosed.

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 50,957

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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**EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of form with next communication to applicant.*